

Appl. No. 09/808,001
Atty. Docket No. 8380LS/PRGA 0103 PUSP
Amdt. dated 9/8/06
Reply to Office Action of 3/22/06
Customer No. 27752

CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. No amendments are made in this paper.

1. (*Previously presented*) A method of developing a technical standard in the process of product development comprising:

- generating a draft technical standard;
- electronically circulating the draft technical standard to a review group;
- automatically attaching review group comments to the draft technical standard;

- electronically locking the draft technical standard;
- electronically circulating the locked draft technical standard to an approval group, the approval group members having access to the review group comments;
- collecting electronic approvals from each member of the approval group;
- rendering the technical standard unchangeable once each member of the approval group has electronically approved of the draft technical standard; and
- releasing the rendered technical standard for electronic access.

2. (Original) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 1 wherein generating a draft technical standard comprises:

- electronically capturing a text-based document containing information relating to the draft technical standard; and
- electronically adding data-structured attributes to the captured document.

3. (Original) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 2 further comprising searching for the technical standard based on the data-structured attributes.

4. (Original) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 1 further comprising electronically tracking review and approval status.

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5. (Original) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 1 further comprising electronically notifying specified users when the technical standard is released.

6. (Original) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 1 further comprising storing the released technical standard in a globally accessible database.

7. (Original) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 1 further comprising limiting access to the technical standard based on user authorization.

8. (Original) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 7 further comprising approving a user for authorized access by collecting at least one electronic approval.

9. (Original) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 7 further comprising approving a user for authorized access based on a role assigned to the user.

10. (Original) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 1 further comprising:

determining that the technical standard is to be modified;
incrementing the version of the technical standard; and
circulating the incremented version technical standard to the approval group.

11. (Original) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 1 further comprising:

translating the technical standard into at least one language/rendition different than a language/rendition in which the technical standard was generated; and
linking the translated technical standard to the technical standard.

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12. (Original) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 1 further comprising attaching additional documentation to the draft technical standard, the additional documentation accessible by members of the review group.

13. (Original) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 1 further comprising printing the rendered technical standard with a watermark including the print date.

14. (Original) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 1 further comprising:

storing the technical standard in a rendered format; and
storing the technical standard in a native format.

15. (*Previously presented*) A system for managing a technical standard, the system accessible by a plurality of product development users, the system comprising:

a development database holding a plurality of technical standards;
a rendition module in communication with the development database, the rendition module rendering an approved technical standard unchangeable; and
an interface module in communication with the development database and the plurality of product development users, the interface module operative to:

- (a) electronically circulate a draft technical standard to a review group,
- (b) automatically attach review group comments to the draft technical standard,
- (c) electronically lock the draft technical standard,
- (d) electronically circulate the locked draft technical standard to an approval group, the approval group members having access to the review group comments,
- (e) collect electronic approvals from each member of the approval group,
- (f) render the technical standard unchangeable after each member of the approval group has approved the draft technical standard, and

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- (g) permit electronic access to the technical standard after the technical standard is rendered unchangeable.

16. (Original) A system for managing a technical standard as in claim 15 further comprising:

- a reference database holding a plurality of approved technical standards; and
- an integration module in communication with the reference database and the development database, the integration module copying approved technical standards from the development database to the reference database.

17. (Original) A system for managing a technical standard as in claim 15 wherein the interface module is further operative to:

- electronically capture a text-based document containing information relating to the draft technical standard; and
- electronically add data-structured attributes to the captured document.

18. (Original) A system for managing a technical standard as in claim 17 wherein the interface module is further operative to permit a user to search for the technical standard based on the data-structured attributes.

19. (Original) A system for managing a technical standard as in claim 15 wherein the interface module is further operative to electronically notify specified users when the technical standard is approved.

20. (Original) A system for managing a technical standard as in claim 15 wherein the interface module is further operative to limit access to the technical standard based on user authorization.

21. (Original) A system for managing a technical standard as in claim 20 wherein the interface module is further operative to approve a user for authorized access by collecting at least one electronic approval.

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22. (Original) A system for managing a technical standard as in claim 15 wherein the interface module is further operative to permit an authorized user to electronically track review and approval status.

23. (Original) A system for managing a technical standard as in claim 15 wherein the interface module is further operative to:
increment the version of the approved technical standard; and
circulate the incremented version technical standard to the approval group.

24. (Original) A system for managing a technical standard as in claim 15 wherein the interface module is further operative to attach a translated version of the technical standard to the released technical standard.

25. (Original) A system for managing a technical standard as in claim 15 wherein the interface module is further operative to permit attaching additional documentation to the draft technical standard, the additional documentation accessible by members of the review group.

26. (Original) A system for managing a technical standard as in claim 15 wherein the interface module is further operative to print the rendered technical standard with a watermark including the print date.

27-75. (Canceled)

76. (*Previously presented*) Computer-readable media having computer-readable instructions for performing a method of specifying a product comprising:
generating a draft technical standard;
electronically circulating the draft technical standard to a review group;
automatically attaching review group comments to the draft technical standard;
electronically locking the draft technical standard;

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electronically circulating the locked draft technical standard to an approval group, the approval group members having access to the review group comments;
collecting electronic approvals from each member of the approval group;
rendering the technical standard unchangeable once each member of the approval group has electronically approved of the draft technical standard; and
releasing the rendered technical standard for electronic access.

77. (Canceled)